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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 4, 2007. Claims 1-10 and 24 were pending, with claims 11-23 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 1-10 and 24 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 25-40 have been added. Accordingly, claims 25-40 are presented for examination, with claims 25 and 31 being in independent form.

Claims 1-10 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,082,406 to Dickson.

~~Applicant~~ Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 25 and 31 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Each of claims 25 and 31 is directed to a method for automatically printing a hard copy of transaction information, when an electronic commerce transaction is conducted by electronic communication via the Internet between a supplier-side computer and a user-side computer.

Dickson does not teach or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 25 and 31.

Dickson, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for printing a receipt or an accounting for a fuel delivery transaction at a gasoline station. More specifically, Dickson proposes a fuel dispensing system wherein a system controller receives data from a fuel dispenser which transmits fuel delivery transaction data to the system controller upon completion of the fuel dispensing operation. The fuel dispenser includes a transaction display 13 for displaying the total amount of fuel dispensed and total amount of the sale to the customer, payment mechanisms such as a cash acceptor 17 or a card reader 15 for automated processing of payment without the customer having to pay an attendant located within the service station 10, a

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receipt station 19 for delivering an accounting of the fueling transaction to the customer when completed.

However, Dickson does not involve conducting an electronic commerce transaction by electronic communication via the Internet between a supplier-side computer and a user-side computer, as provided by the subject matter of claim 25 of the present application.

Dickson merely proposes a system for conducting a fuel purchase transaction locally at a gasoline station.

In addition, Dickson, contrary to the contention in the Office Action, does not teach or suggest generating and submitting a print request without user action.

Dickson clearly states in column 6 (which states as follows in relevant part) that a print request is transmitted only if the customer requests it by entering customer identification indicia:

D. Transaction Accounting Delivery

The fuel purchase transaction accounting is delivered, if desired, to the customer at a receipt station 20 with the fuel dispenser 12 at which he received the fuel. This reduces the cost, increases the reliability, and reduces the maintenance requirements of each fuel dispenser 12. According to the present invention, upon proceeding to the receipt station 20, a customer would enter his customer identification indicia, which could be of any of the forms explicated above, and may be detected automatically by the receipt station 20. The system controller 14 uses this indicia to index into its database of transactions, and responsively transmit to the receipt station 20 the transaction accounting for that customer. The receipt station 20 then delivers the accounting to the customer. Actual delivery of the accounting to the customer may be in any of several forms.

*...
It will be noted that those customers who do not desire a receipt or accounting of their transaction may simply drive off after the fueling operation completes. The receipt station 20 will only initiate an accounting transfer from the system controller 14 upon receiving a customer identification indicia from a customer. The system controller 14 will store the transaction accounting data for some reasonable amount of time, to allow for some delay between a customer's fuelling his vehicle at a fuel dispenser 12 and requesting a receipt at the receipt station 20.*

In addition, Dickson, col. 3, line 63 through column 4, line 14, states as follows:

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For credit card transactions for which the customer indicated a desire to receive a receipt, the system controller 14 transmits an indicia to the fuel dispenser 12 for delivery to the customer (step 6). This could, for example, take the form of a short numeric code displayed on an LED or LCD display at the fuel dispenser 12 (step 7). The customer then proceeds to the receipt station 20 (step 8) and inputs the indicia, for example by entering the code on a keypad. The receipt station 20 transmits this indicia to the system controller 14 (step 9), which uses it to retrieve that customer's transaction accounting. The accounting is transmitted to the receipt station 20 (step 10), which prints a receipt for delivery to the customer (step 11). Note that in this configuration, only one receipt station 20 is required to service a large number of fuel dispensers 12, thus reducing the cost and increasing the reliability of each fuel dispenser 12. Additionally, maintenance requirements are reduced, as only the receipt station 20 need be checked periodically for the replacement of receipt printing paper.

Thus, in the system proposed by Dickson, the user must enter customer identification indicia via a keypad, magnetic stripe card reader, biometric sensor, etc., or must proceed to the receipt printer so that an automated proximity sensor and/or transponder receiver detects the presence of the customer waiting for a receipt.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in the cited art, however, of a method for automatically printing a hard copy of transaction information, comprising communicating electronically with a supplier-side computer via the Internet from a user side through a web browser at a user-side computer to conduct an electronic commerce transaction, monitoring the electronic communication conducted via the Internet, to identify automatically a selected aspect of information regarding the electronic commerce transaction, extracting electronic commerce information from the electronic communication conducted via the Internet, and automatically generating, without a need for user action specifying, a print request including the extracted electronic commerce information, automatically sending said print request to a user-side printing apparatus to have the user-side printing apparatus print the print job including the electronic commerce information extracted from the electronic communication conducted via the Internet.

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as provided by the subject matter of claim 25 of the present application.

Independent claim 31 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 25 and 31, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorney for Applicant
Cooper & Dunham LLP
Tel.: (212) 278-0400